

I never thought November 8th would get here, and I'm so glad it's over. I'm talking about the election – my election, of course – not all that noise from the presidential race. Frankly, I didn't have much time to deal with all the presidential noise, because I had to concentrate on getting re-elected. I'll have more thoughts on this later in the column.

Now, before I go any further, I want to thank all of you for your votes, your prayers, and your confidence in me as your mayor. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. It is truly a humbling experience to have your affirmation of my work and my abilities. I want to give a special thanks to my wife, Marty. She is my “Chief of Staff”, and was my biggest supporter, helper, and spiritual guide throughout the whole campaign. Words cannot express how grateful and blessed I am to have her as my wife.

Here are a few random thoughts and observations I can share from the campaign:

- Campaigning is mentally and physically exhausting – but at the same time it's exhilarating, and actually a joy to do. Every day, I had a heightened sense of urgency and excitement about where I had to go, who I had to see, and what I had to do. I never stopped thinking about it. Adrenaline kicked into overdrive, and virtually everything I did or planned to do was considered for how it would affect the campaign. It gave me a real buzz.
- I learned to improve my multi-tasking skills. Running my business and performing mayoral duties keep me busy virtually every day, including most weekends. However, when you add campaigning into the mix, things really start to get interesting. It is literally like having 3 full-time jobs all at once. The mental 180's occurred multiple times throughout each day, and quite often, multiple times in an hour. I think it really toughened me mentally and physically.
- One of the disappointing things I learned while block-walking was that so many people are unaware of all that is happening in Seguin. We have a talented public information officer who does a great job of putting information out on our website, social media, radio, TV, and newspapers. I even write this column every month to help keep people informed. I see hundreds of people every month at public events and talk about city issues and projects. As hard as we work to get information out, an astonishing number of people are still oblivious to most of what's going on. If anyone has a solution to this “apathy syndrome” please let me know.
- Moving the municipal elections from May to November so they coincide with the national/state elections was a big mistake. I was the lone voice on city council that voted against this measure back in 2011. As I predicted, local issues got drowned out by all the national and state noise.

Municipal elections are non-partisan for a reason. Local issues do not, and should not have anything to do with being a Democrat or Republican. However, when you run concurrently, all the partisan politics gets thrown into the mix, like it or not. Republicans and Democrats who might have agreed on issues and candidates during the non-partisan May election, may find it difficult to agree with each other during the partisan elections in November.

Competing for sign space is tough enough with locals, and doubly tough when competing with the partisans. National elections also bring in all kinds of outside interests, and increase the chances for voter fraud. It's just wrong.

I will tell you for a fact that local people were not fully informed during this past election – there were just too many distractions. I'm going to work to move the municipal elections back to May, where they belong.

Gosh, I love this town!